

CONGRESSMAN **JESSE L. JACKSON JR.**  
PROUDLY SERVING THE 2nd DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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**JACKSON: STATES USING OLD RACE TACTIC TO DEFEAT HEALTH CARE LAW**

Today, Congressman Jesse L. Jackson Jr. issued the following statement on Republican efforts in Idaho, Alabama, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Montana, Oregon, Nebraska, Texas and Wyoming to use the concept of "nullification" to ignore the health care reform bill that President Obama signed last year:

"The attempts to 'nullify' the health care reform in state legislatures across the country are nothing new. From the early years of the Republic, through the Civil War and into the Civil Rights Movement, proponents of 'states rights' have claimed that states could simply ignore federal laws that they disagreed with. That is a dangerous and erroneous interpretation of the Constitution that can only serve to deny Americans the civil rights that they are entitled to, from equal access to public accommodations to the vital provisions to guarantee health coverage that were signed into law last year.

"Dr. Martin Luther King, in his famous 'I Have a Dream Speech,' said, 'I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.' In that context he was referring to southern segregationists fighting against federal civil rights legislation.

"Historically, nullification has been used to try to illegally avoid following federal law, and today's actions in state legislatures are no different. From reading a redacted version of the Constitution on the floor of the House to today's illegal, misguided and short-sighted effort to nullify health care reform, Republicans have consistently misappropriated the Constitution to serve their political purposes."

An *Associated Press* article on the "nullification" effort can be found here: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/26/AR2011012604912\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/26/AR2011012604912_pf.html).

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